AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a large number of connectionless datagrams are received for queuing to a port on the network server, comprising:

determining, in response to the arrival of a connectionless datagram from a host for a port on the network server, if the number of connectionless datagrams already queued to the port from the host exceeds a prescribed threshold;

discarding the datagram, if the number of connectionless datagram already queued to the port from the host exceeds the prescribed threshold; and

queuing the connectionless datagram to a queue slot of the port, if the number of connectionless datagram already queued to the port from the host does not exceed the prescribed threshold.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining if the number of datagrams already queued to the port from the host exceeds a prescribed threshold further comprises:

calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a percentage [[P]] by the number of available queue slots for the port.

3.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus Apparatus for preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a large number of datagrams are received for queuing to a port on the server, comprising:

means for determining, in response to a datagram from a host for the port on the network server, if the number of datagrams queued on the port by the host exceeds a prescribed threshold;

means responsive to the determining means for discarding the datagram, if the number of datagrams queued on the port by the host exceeds the prescribed threshold; and

means for queuing the datagram to a queue slot of the port, if the number of datagrams queued on the port by the host does not exceed the prescribed threshold.

4.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the means for determining if the number of datagrams already queued to the port from the host exceeds a prescribed threshold further comprises:

means for calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a percentage [[P]] by a number of available queue slots for the port.

5.   (Currently Amended) A storage media containing program code that is operable by a computer for preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a large number of datagrams are received for queuing to a port on the network server, the program code including instructions for causing the computer to execute the steps of:

~~determining~~ determining, in response to receiving a datagram from a host for the port on the network server, if the number of datagrams already queued to the port from the host exceeds a prescribed threshold; ~~threshold, in response to a datagram from a host for the port on the network server;~~

discarding the datagram, if the number of datagrams already queued to the port from the [[S]] host exceeds the prescribed threshold; and

queuing the datagram to a queue slot of the port, if the number of datagrams already queued to the port from the [[S]] host does not exceed the prescribed threshold.

6.   (Currently Amended) The storage media of claim 5 wherein the program code includes further instructions for causing the computer to execute the step of: ~~further comprising the step of:~~

calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a percentage [[P]] by a number of available queue slots for the port.

7.   (Currently Amended) A carrier wave containing program code that is operable by a network server for preventing a flooding attack on the network server in which a large number of datagrams are received for queuing to a port on the server, the program code including instructions for causing the network server to execute the steps of:

determining, in response to receipt of a datagram from the host for queuing to the port on the network server, if the number of datagrams already queued to the port from a host exceeds a

prescribed threshold;

discarding the datagram, if the number of datagrams already queued to the port from the host exceeds the prescribed threshold; and

~~queueing~~ queuing the datagram to the port, if the number of datagrams already queued to the port from the host does not exceed the prescribed threshold.

8.   (Currently Amended) The carrier wave of claim 7 wherein the program code further includes instructions for causing the network server to execute the step of:

calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a percentage [[P]] by a number of available queue slots for the port.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

configuring a maximum number of connectionless datagrams allowed to be queued at the port.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the configuring step further includes configuring a controlling percentage of available queue slots remaining for the port; and wherein the prescribed threshold is based on the controlling percentage of available queue slots remaining for the port.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the port comprises a plurality of queue slots, the method further comprising:

maintaining a number of available queue slots of the plurality of queue slots for the port.

12.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:

a means for configuring a maximum number of connectionless datagrams allowed to be queued at the port.

13.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the means for configuring further comprises means for configuring a controlling percentage of available queue slots remaining for the port.

14.   (Previously Presented) The storage media of claim 5 wherein the computer is the network server.